

CENTRAL VALLEY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

INSPECTION REPORT

DATE: 7 April 2009

FACILITY: Stanislaus Almond Ranch, LLC, and Lake Road Grizzly Ranch, LLC

LOCATION & COUNTY: Lake Road, Stanislaus County

INSPECTION DATE: 25 March 2009

INSPECTED BY: Terry Bechtel, CVRWQCB
Lt. Phil McKay, CA Dept. of Fish & Game (DF&G)

OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS:

The inspection was to follow-up on reported re-occurring sediment discharges and to meet with the property representative (Casey Kooyman, father of Mike Kooyman), manager (Mike Staack), and engineering consultant (Antonio Conti) regarding the installed improvements and the recent sediment dam blowout.

We discussed that the management practices implemented so far have not been effective. We also discussed that there is a Water Board Cleanup and Abatement Order in affect and other enforcement actions are being considered. Lt. McKay informed them that DF&G are considering enforcement actions as well.

We then drove through portions of the Stanislaus Almond Ranch watershed. We observed significant erosion in many portions of the watershed. The sediment dam was blown out from recent storm events. There was minimal vegetative cover. Most of the vegetative cover was winter weeds and we observed a spray rig spraying herbicide during the inspection.



Photo 1: Looking at the blown out sediment dam.



Photo 2: Closer view of the dam rill erosion.

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Photo 3: Looking southeast. Minimal cover vegetation.



Photo 4: Looking south from the same location as Photo 3.



Photo 5: Rill erosion (from same location as Photos 1 and 2).



Photo 6: Looking uphill toward where Photo 5 was taken.



Photo 7: Spray rig spraying herbicide.



Photo 8: Close-up of Photo 7. Also note that between the rows was disked.

SUMMARY:

The sediment dam was blown out and significant erosion was observed. Herbicide was being applied and disking to remove the winter weeds. The property owner, manager, and engineering consultant were informed that as discussed before, the current sediment management practices were not effective and that additional enforcement actions are being considered.

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